

The Action Force On Asbestos Pollution
CLYDESIDE ACTION ON ASBESTOS
Support For Victims, Welfare Rights, Research and Hazards
Headquarters at 15 St Margaret's Place, Glasgow G1
Tel 041 552 8852 Fax 041 552 8352

July 9th 1993

Dear Sir/Madam

As a member of Clydeside Action On Asbestos, you are probably all too aware of the many problems that victims of asbestos encounter when they attempt to gain recognition or compensation for their illness. Clydeside Action On Asbestos has fought for many years to highlight the injustice and suffering that many victims have to endure, and thanks to our members, we have been very successful in our campaign so far.

We have recently been fortunate enough to receive funding from the East End Management Unit, so that we can produce a comprehensive study into the full extent of the suffering caused by asbestos in the Glasgow area. We are very excited at having the opportunity to produce such a report, as it gives us a chance to present our arguments with hard facts and figures which the DSS and the doctors will not be able to dispute. Our researcher is currently going through every file in our office, putting them onto a computer, and analysing the results.

However, although our files are pretty detailed, they do not contain all the information which we need to know. At Clydeside Action On Asbestos, we particularly want to highlight the poverty which victims of asbestos-related illnesses have to suffer. Many victims worked in jobs that paid good money - but the jobs involved exposure to asbestos, and therefore robbed them of their capacity to work and forced them to exist on meagre benefits. This is a great injustice; to not only suffer from disease, but poverty and humiliation as well!

In order to make this point clear to the Government, and to enable us to campaign to change this inadequate system, we need your help. Enclosed is a brief questionnaire, designed to produce statistics which will reveal the pitiful amount most victims have to live on each week, due to the negligence of their employers. As you can see, the forms are completely anonymous, as we have no interest in peoples personal details - we merely wish for the figures so that we can come up with an overall view of the situation.

Please do not be put off if you cannot give exact figures to the questions; a rough estimate will do. We will be extremely grateful if you would do your best to fill the forms in, and return them to the office as soon as possible.

We hope that this research project will illustrate quite clearly what we have all known for years - that we are not only victims of asbestos, but victims of an unjust and inadequate system. The research project will form part of our strategy to help change this system, and to ensure that all victims are treated with the compassion and respect which they deserve.

Thank you for your help.

Yours faithfully

Bert Connor
Chairperson.

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Survey into the Poverty that Victims of Asbestos Must Suffer.

All forms are deliberately anonymous, and will be treated with absolute confidence.

1. Are your lungs damaged due to exposure to asbestos?
YES/NO
2. Do you have a relative or spouse who has damaged lungs due to asbestos?
YES/NO
3. Have you claimed for Industrial Disability Benefit from the DSS?
YES/NO
4. Were you successful?
YES/NO
5. Have you applied for DLA or Mobility Allowance?
YES/NO
6. Were you successful?
YES/NO
7. If you were successful, or if you are still awaiting a decision, how long has it taken?.....
8. Do you receive a pension?
YES/NO
9. State/work (please delete as applicable)
10. Including your pension and benefits, what is your average weekly income? (approximately)
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11. How many dependents do you have? (i.e wife and children living at home)
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12. When you were working, what was your weekly take home pay? (An approximate guess of a good week will do)
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13. Did you have to give up work due to ill health?
- YES/NO
14. Are you on Income Support/Invalidity Benefit? (delete)
15. Are you persuing a Civil Claim against your former employers?
- YES/NO
16. If yes, when did you start the action?
-
17. Are you still waiting for a decision?
- YES/NO
18. If your case has been heard, were you successful?
- YES/NO
19. If you were successful, what were you awarded?
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20. PLease make any further comments about the DSS benefits, Civil Claims, or any other aspect of the system which you think needs changing.
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